

## Get Your Child Ready for the 2012-2013 School Year

As the 2011-2012 school year comes to a close, we set our sights on **Monday, Aug. 27, 2012** – the first day of school for next year. Below are some reminders to help you prepare for a successful start of the 2012-2013 school year. And, please **check the DCPS website, [dcps.dc.gov/enroll](http://dcps.dc.gov/enroll), throughout the summer** for additional information and updates.

### Update Your Immunizations and Health Certificate

As parents/guardians, you know that children can spread many illnesses at school. **Immunizations protect children from the most dangerous diseases;** that's why immunizations are required by law before children start school. Please **schedule a visit with your child's physician soon if your child's immunizations are not up to date.** Some immunizations require more than one dose with return visits. For a reminder of the immunizations required by age, **view the flier in your enrollment packet.**

DC law also requires families to submit a Universal Health Certificate every year for every child. **Each student must submit a Universal Health Certificate** that documents a physical has been completed within the past 365 days. **Age-appropriate immunizations must be documented on the Universal Health Certificate.**

### Explore DCPS' 'Hidden Gems' and Enroll Today

**Parents,** are you exploring **new school options for the 2012-2013 school year?** If so, do you know about **DC Public Schools' hidden gems?**

The **following schools** are on the rise with **compelling academic programs** and well worth a closer look: Phelps Architecture, Engineering and Construction High School, Eastern High School, Kelly Miller Middle School, Eliot-Hine Middle School, Jefferson Academy Middle School, Ron Brown Middle School, Payne Elementary School, Sousa Middle School, and Takoma Education Campus.

**Now is the time to contact these schools** – and others in the DC Public Schools system – to schedule visits and speak to school staff. For more information, visit **[dcps.dc.gov/enroll](http://dcps.dc.gov/enroll)** or call the **Critical Response Team** at **202-478-5738**.

### Residency Verification Required for Enrollment

**Residency verification** is required for **every student** registering at a DC Public School. Parents and guardians must **complete residency verification by Oct. 5, 2012**, or within 10 days of initial enrollment, whichever occurs later in the school year. A list of acceptable residency documents is available in the

Enrollment Packet sent to all DCPS families in April 2012 and also is posted on DCPS website at **dc.dcps.gov/enroll**. The Office of the State Superintendent of Education also requires families to make photocopies of residency verification documents. For more information, call the **Critical Response Team** at **202-478-5738**.

## Youngest Learners: Get Ready for Early Childhood Transition Week

The **first week of school for preschool and pre-K students** is known as **Early Childhood Transition Week (ECTW)**. **This year**, ECTW will begin with **home visits** or **parent conferences** from **Aug. 27-29**. **Preschool and pre-K children will not go to school on these days**. Your child's teacher will reach out to you and set up a time to meet. Then, from **Aug. 30-31** children **will come to school in two small groups** (see below for the date your child will attend). Additional information is available on the DCPS website.

- **No school** for preschool and pre-K children from **Aug. 27-29** (these dates are reserved for parent/teacher meetings).
- Children whose **last name begins with the letters A-K** will attend school on Thursday, **Aug. 30**.
- Children whose **last name begins with the letters L-Z** will attend school on Friday, **Aug. 31**.
- **All preschool and pre-K children** will attend school together starting on **Tuesday, Sept. 4**.

Children enrolled in a Montessori school or program may have a different schedule. Contact your school for additional information.

## Special Education Students Should Update Transportation Information

If your child is eligible for **special education transportation** based on his/her **Individualized Education Program (IEP)**, please confirm with the **Special Education Representative or principal** at your child's school that the correct transportation information has been submitted for the **2012-2013 school year**.

Let your **Special Education Representative** know if any of the following information has or will change:

- **Pick-up address;**
- **Drop-off address;**
- **School location; or**
- **Phone number.**

**If you have trouble reaching the Special Education Coordinator or principal** at your child's school, please call the **Critical Response Team** at **202-478-5738**.

**Notice of Non-Discrimination.** *In accordance with state and federal laws, the District of Columbia Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, personal appearance, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, family status, family responsibilities, matriculation, political affiliation, genetic information, disability, source of income, status as a victim of an interfamily offense, or place of residence or business. For the full text and additional information, visit <http://dcps.dc.gov/DCPS/About+DCPS/Human+Resources/Notice+of+Non-Discrimination>.*